

Filed for intro on 05/22/2002

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1109
By Boyer

A RESOLUTION to honor William Harrison "Bill" Lee of the Thorn Grove Community for his spirit of generosity and love for humanity.

WHEREAS, out of the great numbers of human beings on this earth who are born and live among us, there occasionally arise a few who stand out for their great concern for the well-being of their fellow travelers in this worldly existence and who manifest a selfless generosity whenever they see unmet needs among those that they encounter; and

WHEREAS, one such great humanitarian is William Harrison "Bill" Lee, who, for the past 23 years, has operated the Thorn Grove Trading center in eastern Knox County; and

WHEREAS, born September 30, 1926, in Sevier County, Bill Lee married his beloved wife, Junella Hancock Lee, living with her in wedded bliss until her death on June 5, 1985; they are the parents of five children: Emily, Nancy, Sandy, Freddie, and Jeffrey; and

WHEREAS, a life-long farmer, Mr. Lee found time to work for Raymond Emmert at his Thorn Grove Trading Center in 1960 and worked for him until Mr. Emmert's death in 1975; he

HJR1109

01524156

then continued to work for Raymond's widow, Anna Lee Emmert, until he purchased the stock and leased the building in 1979; and

WHEREAS, when Mrs. Emmert died in 1984, Bill bought the building and continues to operate the store; he continues to farm, but at a much reduced pace for the last few years; and

WHEREAS, as a merchant and farmer, Bill Lee has had occasion to be aware of the economic and health situations of his friends and neighbors and he is attuned to the events, both good and bad, that shape their lives; and

WHEREAS, not one to close his eyes to those in need, Mr. Lee often acts as a "loan company" for those needing a loan until payday, even though "payday" may never come. He often buys things from people down on their luck and needing money, even if he has no use for the item or the item has insignificant value; and

WHEREAS, Bill Lee has been known to provide groceries "on him" to those unable to pay; he is quick to send food to those experiencing sickness, fire, or other misfortune, and he is always first with a box of food and paper products when families have a death of one of their members; and

WHEREAS, on Sunday, June 2, 2002, from 2:00 - 4:30 p.m., the Thorn Grove Rebekah and the Thorn Grove Odd Fellow Lodges will host a "Bill Lee Appreciation Day" at the Thorn Grove Odd Fellow Lodge; friends, neighbors and acquaintances will drop by to offer their thanks and appreciation to Bill for all that he has done for the community over the years; and

WHEREAS, gifts are discouraged, but participants may bring cards if they wish, and donations for St. Jude's Children's Hospital will be accepted; and

WHEREAS, Bill Lee's life of selfless contribution to those in need is characteristic of a true Tennessee volunteer, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we join with the good people of the Thorn Grove community and

surrounding areas in observing "Bill Lee Appreciation Day," thank him for his years of unstinting concern for, and service to, his fellow human beings, and wish him every success, satisfaction, and happiness in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.